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THE WORLD'S FAIR and SCIENCE

By J. E. BATTERSON

ON JUNE 1, 1933, Chicago will open the gates of the most elaborate exposition ever attempted in history, A Century of Progress Exposition. Supported entirely by private subscription, it will endeavor during a period of five months to portray to the people of the world, the progress that mankind has made during the past one hundred years. This will include a demonstration of progress made in all fields of human thought and occupation. Practically every state in the Union and many foreign countries are contributing in many ways to the task of assembling this array of knowledge and development for the enlightenment of the average person.

The role of science in the past hundred years of history is quite obvious to everyone. Science, in the form of research, management, industrial development, engineering, medicine and such subjects as Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, is largely responsible for our present man-made wonders. Without science as a right-hand tool, where would be our telephones, electric lights, automobiles, airplanes or any of the now commonplace necessities of life? We would still be living under semi-primeval conditions without the aid of this great field of human thought. Consequently, Science will play a great part in this second World's Fair and of special interest to engineers is the fact that the week of June 25-30 has been set aside as engineers' week at the exposition. During this period, practically every engineering society has scheduled its summer meeting to be held in Chicago. One day of this week is to be set aside as engineers' day and all the societies will join in a huge conference. This will probably be the greatest gathering of technical men ever held in this country if not the whole world.

As a feature of the Exposition a building has been erected for the purpose of housing exhibits pertaining only to the realm of pure science. This is known as the Hall of Science and is located at the extreme north end of the exposition grounds which are situated on the lake front only a five minute walk from the heart of the downtown district of Chicago. Since it is the first building that one encounters after entering the exposition grounds, we might say a few words about its structure. The general appearance is, of course, radical like that of the other buildings, but the effect is pleasing to the eye. It is a great U-shaped building with two long arms reaching down to an artificial lagoon. It is a two story structure, 700 by 400 feet with a mezzanine and a great ramp leading up its northern side. One enters the building on the second floor, the purpose of the architects being to make

the second story as well visited as the first floor, a fact which is not true of two storied structures where the entrance is on the first floor. Within the U space, which is like a quadrangle with an open end, a beautifully designed rostrum is provided and is covered with bas relief ornaments. Here speakers may address thousands of people in the court. A tower approximately 176 feet high rises in the southwest corner of the court which is fitted with a carillon which will record the time of day with its chimes and play a wide variety of tunes on tubular bells. The lighting effects for the building at night are a radical departure from anything ever heretofore used. The awe-inspiring appearance of the multiplicity of colors produced by neon tubes, the shimmering effects cannot be effectively described. Like the Grand Canyon, one must be there in person to appreciate its beauty.

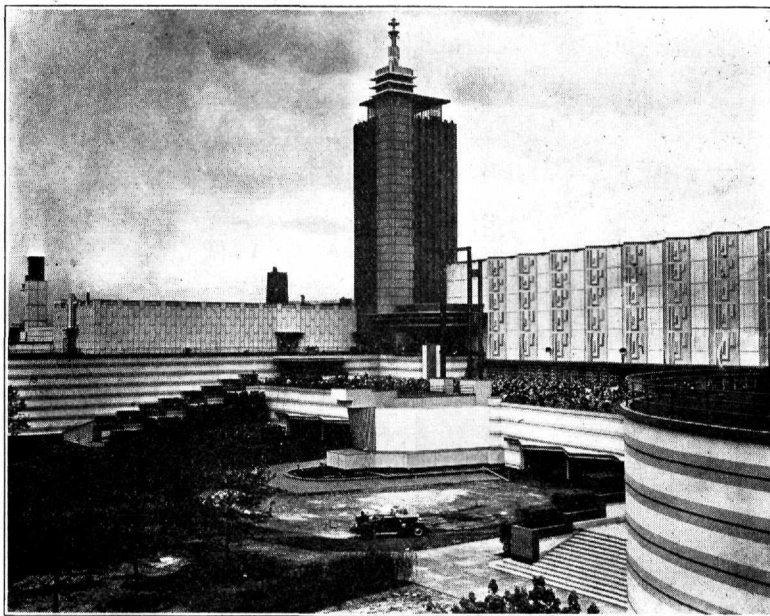
Inside the Hall of Science the story of the epochal dis-

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Courtesy Architectural Forum

Night view on the circular Forum terrace at the north approach to the Hall of Science



Cut Courtesy Century of Progress Exposition
View of the Hall of Science, showing interior of great courtyard, fins for illuminating the tower, and patterned cut-outs for lighting wall surfaces

coveries of science which have helped transform the world in the past century will be unfolded. Men of science from all over the world are preparing exhibits presenting these discoveries in such a way as to be understood by everyone. The National Research Council, leading universities, museums and scientific institutions as well as many industrial corporations are cooperating to make this feature the most outstanding one of the Fair.

The Exposition will be one of processes rather than products. This is to say that its methods of exhibiting will be fresh and novel and different from those of previous expositions. Exhibits will emphasize motion and animation. So far as possible they will stress methods of fabrication rather than row on row of finished products, charts and diagrams or statistics. The exhibits will be in forms that are easily understood, each designed to catch public attention and hold it until the story has been

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told. So far as can possibly be arranged, visitors will participate in the activities and not merely observe things to be looked at and not handled. For example, in demonstrating the action of the blood in the human body, the medical scientists have devised a transparent mechanical device, resembling the human body, that is operated by the observer. By the push of a button, the action of the body organs and the blood stream is clearly portrayed. Levers will operate this transparent man and demonstrate recent discoveries in human anatomy and physiology.

Important steps in the development of the sciences of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Biology and Geology will be explained and demonstrated in new and novel manners. Steps leading up to some of their most important industrial applications will be shown. Here in this building, leading manufacturers of scientific equipment, chemicals, laboratory instruments and medical supplies will display their products and the high points in their development. Books on these subjects and Mathematics are being prepared by experts in these fields. They will be written in simple and understandable language to supplement the many exhibits and by the end of the exposition it is hoped that the people of this nation and other nations will have a deeper understanding of the changes that civilization has undergone during the past century.
